

conservation of this joint asset; they are both affected in the same way by any depletion of this shared patrimony.

As to its value, it may be sufficient to say for example that some years ago 2,000,000 cases of sockeye salmon were packed in the whole system.

For various reasons, this asset has been greatly diminished, more particularly in recent years. The problem, however, constituted by the depletion of sockeye salmon has been before the two Governments for more than twenty years, and this consideration brings us to the question relating to the task which the two countries wish to fulfil under the treaty. The extent to which this resource has been diminished may be indicated by the fact that the 2,000,000 cases of sockeye salmon packed in one year in the past have dwindled to about 150,000 cases per annum at the present time. The importance of reviving the resource is shown by the calculation that has been made, according to which a complete restoration would bring to the fishermen of the two countries catches estimated at more than \$35,000,000 a year.

Beyond these facts lies the whole idea of the treaty. In this light, the treaty speaks for itself.

It may be recalled that Canada and the United States had previously tried to remedy the situation by an international instrument of this kind. The treaty of 1908 for the regulation and protection of the fisheries in all waters adjacent to the International Boundary Line was intended to embrace this fishery. In accordance with that treaty regulations had been prepared, and Canada had taken the necessary action to make them effective, but the United States Senate did not approve them. The hope of Canada that the United States might eventually give approval to the proposed regulations persisted for several years. In 1914 it was realized that our suggestion in this regard would not be found acceptable, and we resumed our freedom of action. Four years later the problem regarding the Fraser River system was one of the questions referred to the International Fisheries Commission, which was created to examine a settlement of outstanding fishery questions between the two countries. The Commission thus appointed unanimously recommended the negotiation of a treaty for the reestablishment and protection of this fishery, and prepared a draft convention and proposed regulations. The convention was signed in 1920, but did not receive the assent of the United States Senate. The convention of 1929 failed for reasons already stated.

We have every reasonable ground to believe that the present treaty will be definitely accepted, as from our information it is supported by the majority of those interested on the United States side, as well as by the Canadian industry.

Briefly summed up, the main provisions of the treaty are:

1. The creation of an international Commission, which will be called the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, to regulate the enterprise;

2. The authority given to the Commission to limit or prohibit taking sockeye salmon as may be determined in accordance with the conditions of each year;

3. The regulating of fishing by the Commission so that an equal proportion of the fish allowed to be caught each season will be taken by the fishermen of each country;

4. The enforcement by the Government of each country of the restriction or prohibition of sockeye fishing imposed by the Commission in the waters covered by the convention.

With this explanation, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Who are the two commissioners on behalf of Canada?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I do not recollect having seen anything of their appointment.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: There is provision for the appointment of commissioners for the purpose of negotiating the treaty?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Oh, yes.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: They are not named?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The convention was signed.

Hon. J. D. TAYLOR: Honourable members, the question raised by the honourable the leader on this side of the House (Hon. Mr. Willoughby) really goes to the very crux of the proposal before the two Governments. I think that perhaps the estimate of a \$35,000,000 catch resulting from this treaty, just now read by the leader of the House, is rather exaggerated; but there is, no doubt, a very substantial gain to be made in the fisheries of the Fraser River.

As to the personnel of the Commission, in my opinion the names of the persons to be appointed commissioners on behalf of Canada are a matter of the very first importance, and I take this opportunity of appealing to the Government to see to it when the Commission is appointed that we get more adequate representation on it than we have had on the Halibut Commission, which has stag-